



# KINGFISHER



November 2008

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 57 No. 7

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

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## A Note from the President

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**Remember that the November meeting will be on the second Tuesday and not the first Tuesday.** The first Tuesday is Election Day. Many of us will be occupied as election judges and thus not available for a meeting. As always, this is an important election.

While the top of the ballot has excited many individuals, it is not the only contest. We will be electing a U.S. Senator and eight U.S. Representatives. We will be electing 68 State Senators and 134 State Representatives. State Supreme Court Justices will also be on the ballot as well as some county judges. Other county races could include water district commissioners and other offices. Finally, there will be the Constitutional Amendment that we heard about at our last meeting.

Before you enter the polling booth, do your homework. Find out about candidates' past voting records. Go to legislative forums and ask questions about what concerns you. Read their position papers. Don't rely on radio and television ads, they are often intentionally misleading.

As an environmental organization, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis urges you to support candidates that protect habitat, support clean water, keep OHV's on trails, support sustainable living and protect all our natural resources. We are facing financial hard times and thus we must select candidates who will represent us responsibly once elected. Some of our priorities may have to be delayed; however, many of our issues cost nothing and should be implemented as soon as possible. So vote as a well-informed voter!

And while you are in a community-minded spirit, ask to be on the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board. We need you!

—Jerry Bahls



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## November Program

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### Bringing Back the Bobwhite Quail

The founder of the Bobwhite Quail Society will be the featured speaker at the November's program of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis.

Thurman Tucker started the organization because he saw that the bobwhite was drastically declining in Minnesota. His presentation will provide a description of the bobwhite, its habitat needs, what his organization and others are doing to bring back its numbers, and what we all can do to help.

A native of Tennessee, Thurman developed his interest in bobwhite quail on his grandfather's farm. He came to Minnesota in 1965, attended the University of Minnesota, and went on to own his own grocery store in Minneapolis for many years. Besides his work with the Bobwhite Quail Society, he currently serves as president of the southeastern Minnesota Quail Forever Chapter, where Minnesota's bobwhite population is primarily located.

He will talk about his work with a number of enthusiastic members who share his interest and hold annual banquets to raise funds, contact farmers, and build habitat on farms. The students in the neighboring high schools have been making quail feeders, and helping to develop acreage for bobwhite, using quail management techniques. Currently, the Bobwhite Quail Forever Chapter of southeastern Minnesota is centering its efforts in Houston and Fillmore counties around the 10-year set-aside federal program known as "CP 33," which is specifically designed to help improve bobwhite quail numbers.

Tucker lives in Minneapolis with his wife of 38 years and travels to southeastern Minnesota on a regular basis. He says chasing after the birds will keep him forever young.

**Program: Tuesday, November 11  
at 7:00 p.m.  
Mayflower Church**

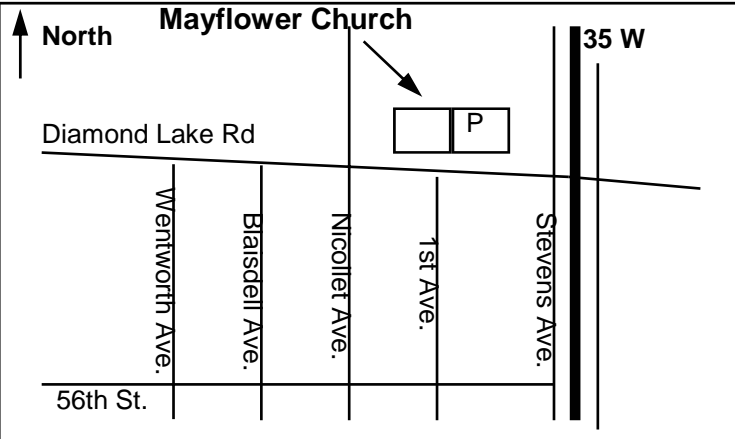
## Come to Our Next Program!

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 11, 2008

"Bringing Back the Bobwhite Quail"

**TIME:** Program at 7:00 p.m.

**AT:** Mayflower Church, Minneapolis  
35W & Diamond Lake (road map below)



Diamond Lake Road Exit from 35W to Diamond Lake Road is now open. It will now be easy for you to attend our meetings!

## OUR FIELD TRIPS

Contact the trip leader if you have questions or need more information.

### Red-headed Woodpeckers and Waterfowl

**Date:** Saturday, October 25, 2008

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.— 11:30 a.m.

**Trip Leader:** Jerry Bahls, member, Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program, (763) 572-2333, jobaud@comcast.net

**Meet:** Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, Anoka County, MN (Fish Lake Trail)

**Directions:** From SH 65, turn east onto 237th Ave. NE at Cooper's Corner in East Bethel. At T intersection, turn right (sign for Cedar Creek HQ points left). Follow this road (Gopher Dr.) as it heads south, then becomes 229th Ave/CR 26 as it heads east. At stop sign, turn left onto Durant St.; follow dirt road to right to Fish Lake Trail parking area. Portable toilet available.

A good chance to see some of the few remaining nesting red-headed woodpeckers in Anoka County. We'll also check for migrating waterfowl and resident otters at Fish Lake.

### Looking ahead

Date: Saturday, December 20: **Christmas Bird Count**  
More details next month

## Cranes Seen and Heard

It paid off to be an early birder on our Sept. 27 sandhill crane field trip. We were able to get very close to a sandbar in the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge by driving into an area normally closed to the public. Refuge manager Anne Sittauer and Anoka County resource specialist Tim Sevcik led the 6:00 a.m. trip to watch and listen as hundreds of cranes took flight at dawn. We also spotted trumpeter swans, white pelicans, wood ducks, mallard ducks, Canada geese, pied-billed grebes, bald eagles, large flocks of red-winged blackbirds, a kingfisher, and a very cooperative marsh wren..

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Audubon Center of the North Woods	www.audubon-center.org		

## THE LAST POLAR BEAR

AUTHOR, WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER  
STEVEN KAZLOWSKI

Thursday Nov. 13, 7:00 p.m.

University of Minnesota, Bell Museum of Natural History  
10 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis

The plight of the Polar Bear will be explored by Steven Kazlowski, author and photographer of *The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World*. A reception and book-signing follows.

Tickets to the talk and reception are \$7 for the general public; \$5 for museum members, University of Minnesota students, faculty and staff.

The event is co-sponsored by the Alaska Wilderness League, Como Park and Conservatory and Braided River/The Mountaineers Books.

For information, contact Lois Norrgard [lois@alaskawild.org](mailto:lois@alaskawild.org) or [www.bellmuseum.org](http://www.bellmuseum.org).

### Project FeederWatch Benefits Birds and People

Studies have shown that an association with nature reduces stress and promotes a feeling of well-being in adults and children.

For twenty-plus years, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has sponsored Project FeederWatch, which gets underway on November 8 for the 2008-2009 season.

Participants count the number of birds at their feeders each week and submit their information to the Cornell Lab. The data of bird sightings, winter movements, and range shifting help scientists monitor the health of birds and the environment and contributes to the largest database in the world on feeder-bird populations.

Project FeederWatch welcomes participants of all ages including scout troops and retirees. Visit [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org) for more information.

### Minnesota- Vote Yes! Protect our Land, Water and Way of Life

For nearly a decade, there has been an effort to establish a source of dedicated funding for Minnesota's natural resources. Funding for the environment and natural resources is at a 30-year low in Minnesota—funding we badly need to protect our water, wildlife and way of life.

A dedicated funding initiative, known as the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, will appear on the Minnesota ballot on November 4.

**Vote "YES" on Election Day, November 4!**

## Audubon's 2008 Issue Ballot and the Annual Members' Meeting *Make your Opinion Count!*

Your opinion is important. Please help Audubon Minnesota select and prioritize issues for the 2009 legislative session by ranking your top three state environmental issues on this year's issue ballot. You can find a ballot one of several ways –

- e-mail Susan Solterman at [ssolterman@audubon.org](mailto:ssolterman@audubon.org) for an electronic version
- pick-up one at your October Audubon chapter meeting
- or call the state office at 651-739-9332 and one will be mailed to you

You can see the ballot at Audubon Minnesota's website [www.mn.audubon.org](http://www.mn.audubon.org)

And whether you vote on the ballot or not, please come to Audubon Minnesota's 2008 Annual Meeting! This year we're meeting on **Saturday, November 8, 2008** at:

Dodge Nature Center in the Farm  
Education Building  
1701 Charlton Street, West St. Paul  
MN 55118

[www.dodgecenter.org](http://www.dodgecenter.org)

**Meeting and lunch is  
\$14 per person.**



#### Agenda:

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Mark Peterson, Executive Director, Audubon Minnesota: Welcome
- 9:30 Greg Butcher, National Audubon Society, Director of Bird Conservation: Climate Change and Bird Conservation
- 10:30 *Break*
- 10:45 Mark Martell, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Minnesota: Minnesota Important Bird Areas Update
- 11:15 Jerry Bahls, President, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis: Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery Project
- 11:45 *Buffet lunch catered by Taste of Scandinavia*
- 12:30 Betsy Loyless, National Audubon Society, Senior Vice-President of Policy: Outlook: Post-November 4th
- 1:30 J. Drake Hamilton, Fresh Energy: Climate Change Legislation in the 2009 Minnesota State Legislature
- 2:00 Steve Hirsch, Minnesota DNR Assistant Director of Ecological Services: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Budget Highlights
- 2:30 Guest speaker and topic to be based on ballot results

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER  
November 2008



**National Audubon Society**  
Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join! Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter at the special introductory rate of \$20! Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

Yes, I'd like to join! As a senior citizen or student, I am able to join for only \$15!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Send this application and make check payable to:**  
National Audubon Society  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
PO Box 51001  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001



**LOCAL CHAPTER**  
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO BOX 3801  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
Chapter Code: **M02**  
**7XCHA**

## Calendar of Events

### OCTOBER

**25** Red-headed Woodpecker Field Trip

### NOVEMBER

- 8** Annual Members' Meeting
- 11** Chapter Program—note date change
- 13** The Last Polar Bear

Board meetings are held every month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Lund's store on Lake Street just west of Hennepin (except in July).

All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings. Call Jerry Bahls for details!

The *Kingfisher* is published monthly September through December and February through May.

## Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!  
Contact Jerry Bahls at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)